

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

ROWENA M. DAGDAG-ANDAYA
Director

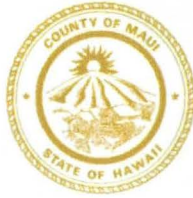
JORDAN MOLINA
Deputy Director

GLEN A. UENO, P.E., L.S.
Development Services Administration

RODRIGO "CHICO" R. RABARA, P.E.
Engineering Division

JOHN R. SMITH, P.E.
Highways Division

Telephone: (808) 270-7745
Fax: (808) 270-6267



RECEIVED

2020 OCT 30 PM 3:09

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENGINEERING DIVISION
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET, ROOM NO. 410
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

October 28, 2020

Honorable Michael P. Victorino
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

Michael P. Victorino 11/2/20
Mayor Date

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Water, Infrastructure, and Transportation Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Sugimura:

SUBJECT: LAHAINA FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT (WIT-79)

Thank you for your letter dated September 8, 2020. Your questions and our responses are indicated below.

1. Please provide background information on the project, including its purpose, the completion date of the Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS"), the completion date of the original design by the Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS"), and the date the NRCS funding ceased.

Response

The Lahaina Watershed Flood Control Project was the subject of a June 1981 resolution adopted by the Maui County Council, authorizing the Mayor to file an application to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service (SCS, renamed the NRCS in 1994) for assistance in preparing a feasibility study for the project. The West Maui Soil and Water Conservation District (West Maui SWCD) was identified as a co-applicant.

In August 1992, the SCS, County of Maui, and West Maui SWCD completed the *Final Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment, Lahaina Watershed*, with the SCS serving as the lead agency. This report was the basis for funding authorization under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 83-566) by documenting the need to provide 100-year flood protection to south Lahaina and reduce the total sediment discharge to the ocean.

In January 1993, the Maui County Council approved a bill for an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the SCS and the West Maui SWCD. This enabled the Mayor to execute the project agreement and proceed with other project requirements, including acquiring land rights.

The Environmental Impact Statement for the project was completed in December 2003.

The NRCS Design Regional Technical Team in Davis, California designed the project. Please see Exhibit "A" for a map of the project phases. Construction timeframes and costs are summarized in the table below.

Phase	Major Features	Construction		Funding (in millions)		
		Start	End	Federal	Local	Total
1	Diversion channel, sediment basin, shoreline outlet, Honoapiilani Highway culvert	12/2009	1/2011	\$3.8	\$3.6	\$7.4
2A	Hokiokio Place culvert	(Constructed as part of Phase 3A)				
2B	Diversion channel	2/2013	10/2013	\$1.9	\$0.2	\$2.1
3A	Hokiokio Place culvert, grass-lined diversion channel	3/2014	3/2015	\$1.7	\$0.3	\$2.0
Total				\$7.4	\$4.0 ¹	\$11.4 ¹

Phase 3B of the project was planned to consist of a debris basin, two short reaches of vegetated earth channel, two inlet structures, and two outlet structures. The drawings for Phase 3B were completed in October 2013. Phases 4 and 5 of the project were planned to consist of a diversion channel, three sediment basins, and four road crossings. However, construction of Phase 3B and detailed design of subsequent phases could not proceed because NRCS funding was not available.

In March 2019, the NRCS completed the *Lahaina Watershed Reaffirming Feasibility Report*, which was needed to restart the project. This report provided background information, documented the existing works, and reconfirmed the County would be able to meet all requirements as the local sponsor.

2. Please provide the current status of the project, addressing the following:
 - Will the Department contract for the design work?
 - Will the NRCS fund an updated National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") EIS or feasibility study? If so, will the study include the following:
 - Reevaluation of the proposed channel alignment.
 - An update of changes since 2004, including land use changes, Lahaina Bypass Highway alterations of flow, Commission on Water Resource Management mandated stream flow, and environmental and site condition changes.

¹ Numbers in column do not add up due to rounding.

Response

To advance the project, NRCS has proposed providing funds for professional services to the Department of Public Works (DPW) for the completion of a supplemental watershed plan-environmental document (Supplemental Plan-ED). This document will provide the framework to review the purpose, scope, and major features of the existing plan; consider conditions requiring modification; and determine conditions significant enough to warrant a revised watershed project plan. The factors you mentioned will be included in the changed conditions to be examined. Once the Supplemental Plan-ED is finalized, funds can be requested to contract a consultant for the design work.

3. *Please provide a tentative project schedule and any identified milestones. Please address the following:*
- *Will NRCS apply for funding for the design work only after the revised EIS or feasibility study is complete?*
 - *Will NRCS apply for construction funding after the design work is complete or at another point in the process?*
 - *Will the Department begin land-acquisition activities after this construction funding is secured or at another point in the process?*

Response

The project schedule is currently being developed. NRCS can apply for funding for design work after the Supplemental Plan-ED has been completed. Construction funding can be requested after the design is completed. DPW anticipates commencing with land acquisition activities once the 90% design has been completed.

4. *Has the updated NEPA EIS work been contracted for yet? If so, is the contract with the same consultant who did the original EIS for this project?*

Response

The environmental planning work has not been contracted for yet.

5. *Who is responsible for overseeing the proposed timeline for the project?*

Response

NRCS and DPW will jointly provide project oversight.

6. *When will the proposed alignment be finalized?*

Response

The Supplemental Plan-ED will identify the proposed alternative, and the proposed alignment will be finalized when 90 percent of the design has been completed.

7. *Is funding guaranteed or likely throughout the construction process?*

Response

See response to question 8 on the next page.

Honorable Michael P. Victorino
For Transmittal to:
Honorable Yuki Lei K. Sugimura
October 28, 2020
Page 4

8. *What priority is this project in Hawaii or the nation for funding?*

Response

The availability and priority of project funding will be determined by NRCS, and may be affected by other Federal funding needs and availability.

9. *What are the estimated costs to the County of Maui for this project, what do these costs include, and what are the tentative dates that funding would be needed?*

Response

The County of Maui would be responsible for funding the acquisition of land rights and processing any required regulatory permits. These costs and the timing of the necessary funding can be better estimated once the proposed alternative has been determined. Costs will also be incurred for County staff time to manage the project.

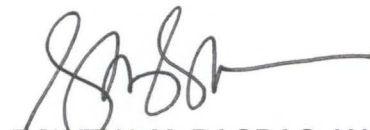
May I also request that you plan to provide at least semiannual updates to the Council standing committee with jurisdiction over this matter. Please also provide contact information for an NRCS representative who could speak on their involvement in this project.

Response

Public participation will be integral to the development of the Supplemental Plan-ED. In coordination with this process and the Council schedule, DPW can provide updates to the appropriate Council standing committee. Requests for information on NRCS involvement in the project may be directed to Travis L. Thomason, NRCS Pacific Islands Area Director, at Travis.Thomason@usda.gov.

DPW appreciates your support and interest in this project. We look forward to working with you and keeping you informed on the project as it progresses. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office at (808) 270-7845.

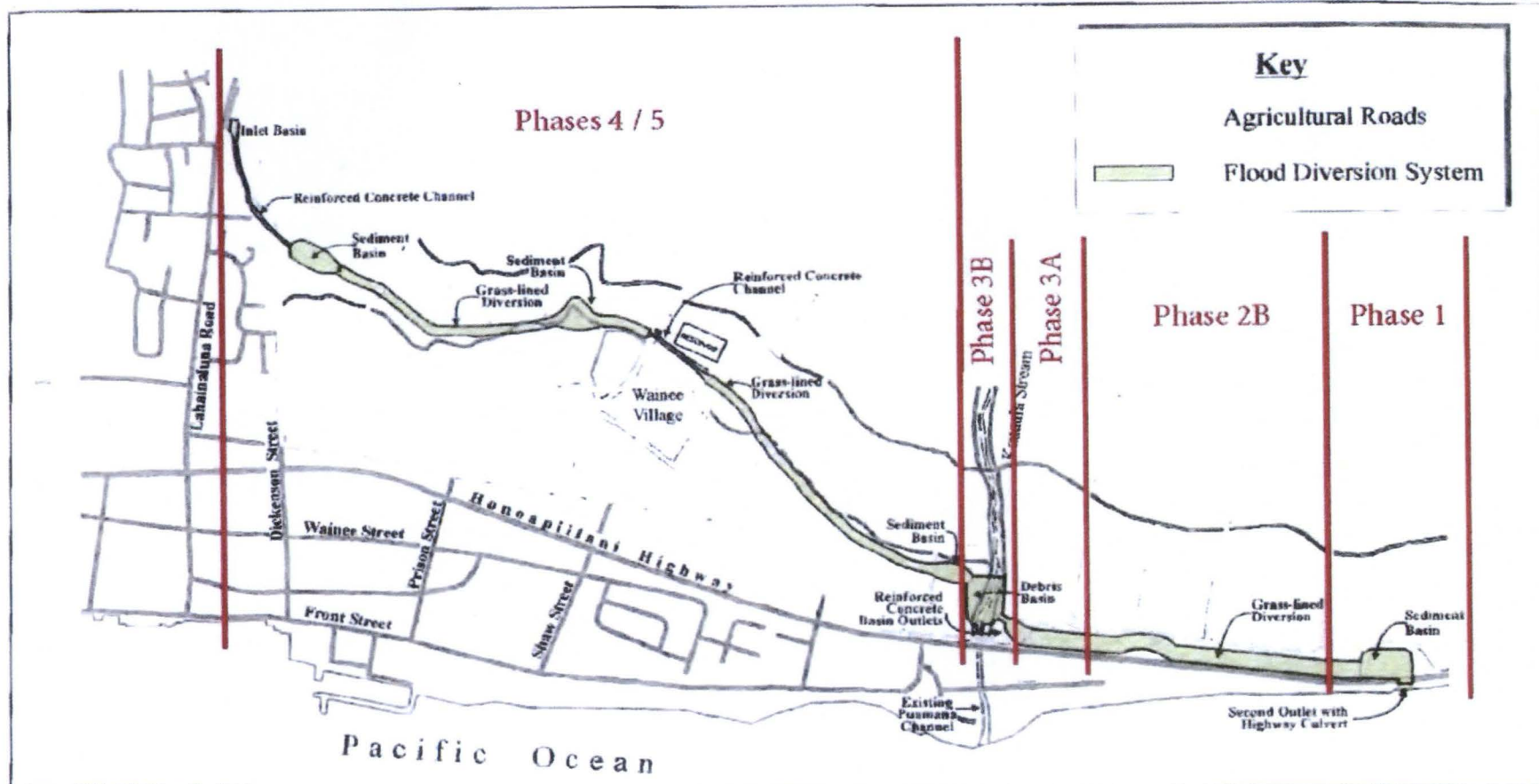
Sincerely,



ROWENA M. DAGDAG-ANDAYA
Director of Public Works

RMDA:ckc (ED20-1201)

xc: Travis L. Thomason, Pacific Islands Area Director, NRCS (email)
Jordan Molina, DPW Deputy Director (email)



Source: USDA, Soil Conservation Service

Figure 2

Lahaina Watershed Flood Control Project
Project Location Map

NOT TO SCALE



Prepared for: County of Maui, Department of Public Works and Environmental Management

HONOLULU & HILO, HI

Exhibit "A"